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Party Lines for a Fading Year

It is New Year's Eve, and you are at a party with nothing but brilliant people. How do you get their attention? Just by being very clever. Carry this in your wallet or evening bag and refer to it when you run out of things to say.

"My son plays college football for free."

"The Soviet defector, Yurchenko, was just about to buy our house before he decided to go back to the Soviet Union."

"Have you folks ever seen Ronald and Nancy Reagan give their hilarious impersonation of Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev?"

"Everyone in our family has failed the State Department's lie detector test."

"I can only stay for a little while. I have to burn my company's books before the Pentagon inspector general gets his hands on them."

"We were walking out of this steakhouse in New York City when these two gunmen pushed us aside and took out their guns and—oh, you'll read about it in the newspapers tomorrow."

"Sly Stallone spoke at our Quaker meeting the other night."

"World War III isn't what it's cracked up to be."

"The only way my wife will look at

Halley's comet is with all her clothes off."

"I read the first draft of David Stockman's book last night and the whole thing takes place in the bedroom."

"When Bruce Springsteen comes to our house, he sings what I want to sing."

"I sat next to Donald Regan at dinner, and he asked me, as a woman, if I knew what was going on in Afghanistan. When I said I did, he turned to his other dinner partner and ignored me for the rest of the evening."

"George told Prince Charles if he bumped him once more with his horse, Charles would never be able to mount a polo pony again."

"What surprised me on my first dive was how enormous the decks are on the Titanic. You get no sense of it until you walk on them yourself."

"Sidney had a golden parachute when he left RCA—but it didn't open."

"Donald Trump has agreed to build an addition onto our house."

"Maybe our children won't see Reagan's Star Wars, and maybe our children's children won't see Star Wars, and maybe their children won't see Star Wars—but by God, somebody's children are going to see it."

"Why don't the TV networks show more pictures of happy animals in South Africa and fewer shots of unhappy people?"

"Scientists have just discovered that you get 96 fewer bubbles in the New Coke than you do in the old."

"My wife and I were recently in Europe. Since the dollar was so strong we bought a burial plot at Bitburg."

"I'm not saying that I concur with all the Navy spying that John and Arthur Walker did—but how many brothers do you know who will still give the other a helping hand?"

"George Bush is at his best when he's attacking Ronald Reagan."

"Walter turned down the presidency of Yale because they told him he would have to live in New Haven."

"If you have to ask what a local telephone call costs, you can't afford it."

"Does anyone want to contribute to a fund to pay John McEnroe's tennis fines?"

"Would you folks like to see me throw a dwarf?"

"Everybody quiet. I'm going to read Playboy in Braille."

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